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81044950/201-0905
(FGT 1697 PA)**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] In an alternative embodiment, as shown in Figure 3D, the truck bed section 24 includes an intermediate pair of supports 34 telescopically fitted between the first pair of supports 26 and a second pair of supports 30' ~~[[30']]~~. The intermediate pair of supports 34 is intended to permit the truck bed section 24 to extend a greater distance toward the rear of the vehicle 12. In this regard, this construction is similar to that of a telescoping antenna whereby supports with decreasingly sized diameters extend from a base support.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] Moreover, one or more supplemental cross members 66 ~~[[64]]~~ may be secured across the second pair of supports 30 (as shown in Figure 1), the intermediate pair of supports 34, or both pairs of supports if desired. These supplemental cross members 66 ~~[[64]]~~ can provide additional support for lengthy objects placed across the rack assembly 10 when the rack assembly 10 is moved to an extended position. A variety of fasteners may be utilized to attach the supplemental cross member 66 ~~[[64]]~~ to the supports 30, 34. For example, the second pair of supports 30 may have a pair of holes 78 integrally formed within their interior sides. One of the holes (not shown) ~~[[78]]~~ may be intended to receive a fixed nub 68 extending from one end of the supplemental cross member 66 ~~[[64]]~~ while the other hole 78 ~~[[64]]~~ may be intended to receive a spring loaded nub 70 from the opposing end of the supplemental cross member 66 ~~[[64]]~~. This spring loaded nub 70 may also have a retractor arm 72 extending therefrom for allowing a user to retract the spring loaded nub 70 from within the hole 78 of the second support 30 so as to detach the supplemental cross member 66 ~~[[64]]~~ from the rack assembly 10.